WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1. A method of presenting information on a space-constrained display of a

2   portable device, the method comprising:

3   associating a first indication on the display with a user-defined external state;

4   establishing a user-defined operation for monitoring the user-defined external

5   state; and

6   updating the first indication on the display in accordance with the monitored

7   user-defined external state in response to an information encoding

8   thereof received via a telecommunications network.

1   2. The method of claim 1, wherein the user-defined external state is one of:

2   a weather or environmental state;

3   a system or information status state; and

4   a news or sports information state.

1   3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   performing the established user-defined operation using a networked

3   computational service remote from the portable device; and

4   supplying the information encoding in correspondence with a result of the

5   performed user-defined operation.

1   4. The method of claim 3,

2   wherein the supplying includes pushing the information encoding to the

3   portable device via the telecommunications network.

1   5. The method of claim 3,

2   wherein the supplying includes supplying the information encoding to the

3   portable device via the telecommunications network in response to a

4   request therefor from the portable device.

1   6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

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2   retrieving from a networked computational service remote from the portable

3   device, an information encoding in correspondence with a result of the

4   performed user-defined operation.

1   7. The method of claim 1,

2   wherein the user-defined external state is selected from amongst a

3   predetermined set of external states available for monitoring.

1   8. The method of claim 1,

2   wherein the establishing of the user-defined operation includes selecting from

3   amongst a predetermined set of at least partially-predefined queries.

1   9. The method of claim 1,

2   wherein the associating of the first indication with the user-defined external

3   state is performed without use of the portable device.

1   10. The method of claim 1,

2   wherein the establishing of the user-defined operation is performed without

3   use of the portable device.

1   11. The method of claim 1,

2   wherein either or both of the associating of the first indication with the user-

3   defined external state and the establishing of the user-defined operation

4   are performed via the portable device.

1   12. The method of claim 1,

2   wherein the user-defined operation includes a query executable at a networked

3   computational service remote from the portable device.

1   13. The method of claim 1,

2   wherein in the first indication is a graphical indication.

1   14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

2   associating a second indication with the user-defined external state, the second

3   indication providing textual description rendered in response to

4   selection, at the portable device, of the first indication.

1   15. The method of claim 1,

2   wherein the display device includes a two-dimensional array of display

3   elements suitable for simultaneously presenting plural visual

4   indications displaced throughout at least a portion thereof, the first

5   indication corresponding to at least one of the plural visual indications.

1   16. The method of claim 1,

2   wherein the plural visual indications exhibit at least two indication states each.

1   17. The method of claim 1,

2   wherein the display device includes a two-dimensional array of display

3   elements suitable for simultaneously presenting plural visual

4   indications displaced throughout at least a portion thereof.

1   18. The method of claim 1, wherein the portable device includes one or more

2 of:

3   a phone;

4   a personal digital assistant;

5   a pager;

6   a palm- or handheld-computer;

7   a digital media player;

8   a communications-enabled portable device; and

9   a WAP- or iMode-enabled portable device.

1   19. The method of claim 1, wherein the telecommunications network

2 transmission and routing facilities include one or more of:

3   a wireless voice network;

4   a wireless data network;

5   a packet-switched data network;

6   an internet or intranet;

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7   a local- or wide-area network; and

8   a public switched telecommunications network (PSTN).

1   20. A portable device comprising:

2   a space-constrained display including a two-dimensional array of display

3   elements suitable for simultaneously presenting plural visual

4   indications displaced throughout at least a portion thereof; and

5   a communications interface to a telecommunications network, the

6   communications interface coupled to the space-constrained display and

7   allowing the portable device to receive information encoding one or

8   more external states and to update respective ones of the visual

9   indications based on respective user-defined associations with the

10   external states.

1   21. The portable device of claim 20,

2   wherein the external states are user selected and include one or more of

3   weather status, environmental status, system status, information status,

4   and news, sports or financial status.

1   22. The portable device of claim 20,

2   wherein the plural visual indications are grouped based on correspondence of

3   the associated external states.

1   23. The portable device of claim 20,

2   wherein the telecommunications network includes one or more of a wireless

3   voice network, a wireless data network, a packet-switched data

4   network, an internet or intranet, a local- or wide-area network and a

5   public switched telecommunications network (PSTN).

1   24. The portable device of claim 20,

2   embodied as one or more of a phone, a personal digital assistant, a pager, a

3   palm- or handheld-computer, a digital media player, a

4   communications-enabled portable device and a WAP- or iMode-

5   enabled portable device.

1   25. A computer program product encoded in at least one computer readable

2   medium, the computer program product comprising:

3   a first functional sequence executable to establish an association between

4   plural indications on a display of a portable device and respective user-

5   defined external states;

6   a second functional sequence executable to supply via a telecommunications

7   network an information encoding for update of the indications on the

8   display in accordance with the user-defined external states.

1   26. The computer program product of claim 25,

2   wherein execution of the first functional sequence further establishes user-

3   defined operations for monitoring the user-defined external states.

1   27. The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising:

2   a third functional sequence executable to monitor of the user-defined external

3   states.

1   28. The computer program product of claim 25,

2   wherein the first and second functional sequences are both executable on a

3   networked information server that accesses one or more data stores in

4   which results of monitoring of the user-defined external states are

5   encoded.

1   29. The computer program product of claim 25,

2   wherein the first functional sequence is embodied at least in part as code

3   implementing a web page accessible from either or both of the portable

4   device and a networked computer.

1   30. The computer program product of claim 25,

2   wherein the at least one computer readable medium is selected from the set of

3   a disk, tape or other magnetic, optical, or electronic storage medium

4   and a network, wireline, wireless or other communications medium.

1   31. An apparatus comprising:

2   means for presenting a visual indication on a display device;

3   means for associating, based on a user selection, the visual indication with a

4   state external to the apparatus; and

5   means for receiving an information encoding corresponding to the external

6   state and for updating the visual indication based thereon.

1   32. The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:

2   means for ascertaining the external state and for communicating the

3   information encoding corresponding thereto.